

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 28, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. R. Max Peterson, Ms. Kathleen Pritchard and Mr. Robert Zoldos. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 24th meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners discussed and approved an agenda for the Joint Committee Meeting of the Three Commissions on March 6th, 2000.

Mr. Hicks asked the Commissioners if they would like to share some of their space at the Flower and Garden Festival on April 29th and 30th, with the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). The EAC would help with the distribution of literature and seedlings during the show. The Commissioners all agreed that there would be enough room to share the space with the EAC.

Ms. Pritchard thought that the EAC will need at least one representative to be there at all times during the Festival.

Mr. Zoldos suggested that a schedule be made up ahead of time as to who will be there and when. Also, the people from Memorial Drive that helped out last year should be contacted as possible volunteers for this year as well.

Ms. Wall announced that Arbor Day would be held on April 1, 2000, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. with the main program at 11:30 A.M. on the Town Green. Ms. Wall also said that the Arbor Day Committee would like to hold the celebration at Banshee Reeks Park some time in the future.

Mr. Groothuis volunteered to help judge the photo contest on the afternoon of March 23rd, at the Leesburg Room in the County building.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Banks brought up the fact that an election of officers for the Tree Commission needs to be done.

Mr. Hower nominated Mr. John Groothuis as the Chairman and Ms. Anne Wall for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Peterson and approved by all present.

Mr. Zoldos explained that the Council would like to meet with each Commission and/or Committee once a year for discussion about any and all points of interest. The Commissioners can use this time to have an open exchange about issues they might want to discuss. The reason for this is to increase the flow of communications between the

Committee of the Whole and the Commissions/Committees. Mr. Zoldos also suggested that one thing to discuss before the Committee of the Whole would be their budget for next year. The Tree Commissions appointment with the Committee of the Whole will be on June 12, 2000, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Banks reported that the 2000 by 2000 project has reached a total of 1,930 trees, and that there are plenty of brochures left to hand out at Arbor Day and Flower and Garden Festival.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Pritchard would like the Tree Commission to go before the Committee of the Whole as well as the Town Council to discuss the \$40,000.00 tree maintenance cost for the Dogwoods along the By-Pass. Ms. Pritchard also asked if there was a specific budget for maintenance of the trees that the Tree Commission has planted.

Mr. Banks said that the Department of Parks and Recreation includes that in their budget.

Mr. Hower stated that he thought that the Tree Commission may be missing a zero on the \$5,000.00 budgeted for the Eastern Gateway. If you look at the budget in itself it only relates to one half of one percent of the surplus the Town has experienced last year. Mr. Hower thinks that now is the time to do something for that Eastern Gateway.

Ms. Wall asked how the process for planting trees in the Eastern Gateway gets started?

Mr. Zoldos explained that the Tree Commission needs to get on the agenda for a Council meeting and present a package to request that the Council direct the Town Manager to coordinate with VDOT to get permission to plant trees along the Eastern Gateway. That this is an initial planting to improve the entrance into Leesburg, and that the Tree Commission would eventually like to go eastbound towards the Town Limits by Goose Creek. The project information should include:

- 1-What the Commission is going to do .
- 2- How much the Commission is going to spend.
- 3- Who's going to do it.
- 4- What the time frame is.
- 5- What's required to get it done.
- 6- Type and size of trees.

Ms. Wall also stated that there are a number service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.) here in town that would probably like to get involved with the planting of trees to beautify Leesburg.

Mr. Banks reported that he had spoken with Mr. Lilly, Chief of Operations of Public Works and has asked for a line item in their budget for the Dogwood maintenance on the By-Pass. The Tree Commission has requested up to \$40,000. be available if need be. Mr. Banks and Mr. Lilly agreed to submit a request for \$35,000.

Mr. Banks also reported that the junipers at Cavalier Arms on Washington Street were in decline and the Property Management Company asked for their removal. Also, in this area there is a CIP project to install curb, gutter and sidewalk so these trees would have been removed anyway.

Mr. Banks said that Parks and Recreation would not support an Arboretum in Robinson Park. Open space is important in Robinson Park at this time. Also during a discussion with Parks and Recreation the “gray” areas of caring for trees in the town came up. There are five departments that deal with landscaping and trees.

1. Parks and Recreation taking care of Parks and Recreation areas.
2. Public Works taking care the street areas
3. Utilities taking care of pump stations.
4. Police Department is handling their own contract for the Public Safety Center.
5. Mr. Banks is handling the contract in the Planning Department for the By-Pass trees.

Mr. Zoldos said there should be some sort of centralization for these five departments.

Mr. Banks also said that the Web page for the Town now has the Tree City USA logo on it.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned a 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

Susan DeJong, Recording Secretary

